

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

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TO AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE
INFO DOD IMMEDIATE
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CINCPAC IMMEDIATE
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CJUSMAG IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 077928

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, RP

SUBJECT: PHILIPPINE BASE NEGOTIATIONS - MILITARY EQUIPMENT

1. AS DISCUSSED IN SEPTEL, SHOULD EMBASSY DESIRE TO HAVE
BGEN MAPP DISCUSS WITH ESPINO AND MANIPULA THE REALITIES
WITH RESPECT TO AFP EQUIPMENT LIST, BGEN MAPP COULD DRAW
ON FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. LIMITATIONS OF THE WORLD-WIDE US ARMS TRANSFER POLICY.

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BG GRAHAM'S "NON-PAPER" PROVIDED TO BG MANIPULA CONTAINS
SPECIFICS WITH RESPECT TO AFP REQUESTS.

B. MAGNITUDE OF AFP EQUIPMENT LIST EQUATES TO UPGRADING
AND RE-EQUIPING ENTIRE AFP IN NEAR TERM. TRAINING,
LOGISTIC, PERSONNEL, MAINTENANCE AND FINANCIAL PROBLEMS
ASSOCIATED WITH SUCH A PROGRAM MAKE IT UNREALISTIC AND

BEYOND THE ABSORPTIVE CAPABILITY OF ANY MILITARY ORGANIZATION AND WELL BEYOND ABILITY OF USG TO FINANCE.

C. RELUCTANCE OF AFP MEMBERS TO DISCUSS REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES TO SPECIFIC AFP EQUIPMENT DESIRES WITH THE DOD EQUIPMENT SURVEY TEAM, EVEN AFTER BEING INFORMED THAT CERTAIN ITEMS WERE NOT AVAILABLE, FORCED THE US TEAM TO MAKE SOME RECOMMENDATIONS NOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH AFP DESIRES.

US TEAM BELIEVES LESS EXPENSIVE ALTERNATIVES EXIST WHICH WOULD MEET STATED REQUIREMENTS.

D. CERTAIN ITEMS ON AFP LIST ARE PROHIBITIVELY COSTLY EVEN WHEN TAKEN ALONE. AFP MAY NOT REALIZE MAGNITUDE OF TOTAL COST ASSOCIATED WITH THEIR COMPLETE LIST. COST OF PROCURING THE COMPLETE LIST COULD BE AS MUCH AS TEN TIMES GREATER THAN WHAT WE BELIEVE TO BE THEIR HIGHEST ESTIMATES AS INDICATED TO GENERAL GRAHAM.

2. WE ARE INTERESTED IN WHATEVER PROPOSAL THE AFP MAY WISH TO MAKE AND THE BASIS FOR ANY SUCH PROPOSAL, KEEPING IN MIND WHAT THEY HAVE HEARD FROM DOD TEAM ABOUT US LIMITATIONS.

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Message Attributes

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